

**ABSTRACT**

5        Laminin and specific laminin-derived protein fragments are disclosed as potent inhibitors of Alzheimer's disease type amyloidoses. A specific region is identified within laminin which interacts with the Alzheimer's disease beta-amyloid protein and contributes to the observed inhibitory and therapeutic effects.

A prominent ~130 kilodalton band in laminin was found in human serum and cerebrospinal  
10 fluid which primarily interacted with A $\beta$  as determined by ligand blotting methodology. This ~130 kilodalton laminin fragment is known as the E8 fragment and is also believed to consist of the globular domains of the laminin A chain. The interaction of specific laminin fragments such as the newly discovered ~130 kDa protein is believed to bind A $\beta$  in biological fluids and keep it in a soluble state.

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